

A better prepared EU: Actions to address cross-border health threats

State of Health Preparedness Report

2023

December 2023

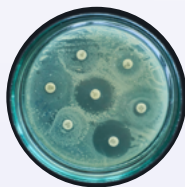
Diseases know no borders. Four years after COVID-19 was first detected and one year since the entry into force of the Regulation on serious cross-border health threats, the European Union has taken great strides towards better preparedness to withstand serious cross-border health threats, as part of a strong European Health Union.



Minimising the burden of health threats and mitigating associated risk factors



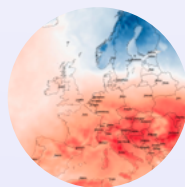
More coordinated EU approach on vaccination



Stepping up the fight against antimicrobial resistance



Preventing zoonotic diseases



Addressing climate change-related health threats

Reinforced structures and capacities to anticipate, respond and recover



Improved reporting on Member States' preparedness capacities



Union Prevention, Preparedness and Response plan from 2024



Joint Procurements for medical countermeasures



Assessment of national prevention, preparedness and response planning

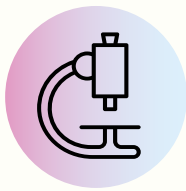
Monitoring communicable disease trends, detecting outbreaks and evaluating effective responses



Updated EU surveillance and list of diseases



Stronger surveillance systems in Member States



EU Reference Laboratories for human health



Modern digital platforms



Wastewater surveillance

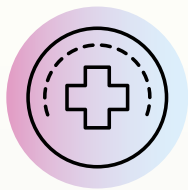


Comprehensive, interlinked Early Warning and Response System

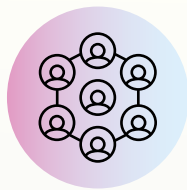
Coordinated measures to manage outbreaks and ensure the availability of safe, effective medical and diagnostic devices and medicines



Enhanced role for the EU Health Security Committee



Capacity to declare a public health emergency at Union level



Deployment of public health experts via EU Health Task Force



EU emergency response under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism



Joint procurement, stockpiling and actions to prevent and mitigate shortages

Significant financial support from the EU budget

Health systems preparedness, recovery and resilience via **more than EUR 43 billion** earmarked under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, as well as funds under rescEU, Horizon Europe and the EU4Health programme.

Strengthening the global health security framework

The EU's Global Health Strategy aims to improve global health security and deliver better health for all. This is particularly important because addressing health emergencies at an international level mitigates the possible spread of health risks in the European Union.

The EU is actively engaged in negotiations on:



An international agreement on **pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**



Strengthening the International Health Regulations



One Health approach to cross-border health threats

Recent epidemics and pandemics have made it clear that **human, animal, plant and environmental health cannot be dealt with separately.**